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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Settlement Proposal

Microsoft has announced a settlement proposal to try to resolve a series of antitrust lawsuits initiated by state Attorneys General:

> Under a settlement proposal in a series of private antitrust
> lawsuits announced Tuesday, Microsoft agreed to donate approximately
> \$500 million to help bring technology to some of the nation's most
> disadvantaged schools. The deal will also allow these schools to
> obtain a virtually unlimited supply of Microsoft software for the
> next five years. [www.ZDNet.com]

This proposed settlement is an absurd and insulting solution which does absolutely nothing to mitigate Microsoft's anticompetitive behavior, and in fact does exactly the opposite by further dissemination of its products at the expense of other software vendors. Apple Computer in particular stands to lose its critical education market if faced with a flood of free Microsoft products in schools.

With a market share of more than 90%, Microsoft has a profound advantage over companies such as Netscape, Real Networks, and Apple, who are fighting a perpetual uphill battle to maintain a presence in the market. Any application software that Microsoft chooses to package with its Windows operating system is guaranteed to push all other competitors out of the market. Netscape's browser software used to be the most widely used internet software. Once Microsoft started bundling Explorer with Windows, Netscape's market share dropped to almost nothing. Real Networks faces a similar fate with their RealAudio products, which is steadily being pushed out of the market by Windows Media software bundled with every Intel PC.

Action must be taken to restore a balanced and competitive software market, in which the success of a software application is based on its quality, performance, and utility, not the fact that it's bundled for free with an operating system that runs on the majority of the world's personal computers. I ask you to seek an outright and immediate rejection of Microsoft's ludicrous settlement offer, and continue to pursue the breakup of Microsoft into two separate companies for operating systems (Windows) and applications (Word, Excel, Explorer, etc.). This solution will help maintain a healthy and innovative American software industry for years to come.

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